

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner requires the Applicant to elect a single disclosed species under 35 U.S.C. § 121 for prosecution on the merits, to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held allowable. The Examiner asserts that there are no currently generic claims. The Examiner states that the claims are directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: I) the species described on page 15, lines 3-9 of the specification; II) the species described on page 19, lines 8-13 of the specification; III) the species shown in FIG. 20A; IV) the species shown in FIG. 20B; and V) the species shown in FIGS. 20C and 20D.

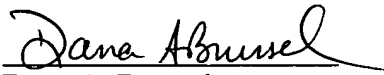
Applicant hereby elects the embodiment described on page 15, lines 3-9 of the specification for prosecution on the merits. Applicant has canceled claim 1-14 and has added new claims 15-25. Claims 15-25 read on the elected embodiment. Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicant hereby reserves the right to the consideration of claims to the additional embodiments which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141. Applicant further reserves the right to file continuation applications and/or divisional applications on any non-elected species.

Appl. No. 10/729,768
Amdt. dated February 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed October 18, 2004

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the application, namely claims 15-25, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (631) 501-5713.

Respectfully submitted,

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